

SQUAM LAKES ASSOCIATION REPORT 2005

The Squam Lakes Association (SLA) is dedicated to conserving for the public benefit the natural beauty, peaceful character, and unique resource values of the lakes and surrounding area. In cooperation with local and state authorities and other conservation organizations, the Association promotes the protection, careful use, and shared enjoyment of the lakes, mountains, forests, open spaces, and wildlife of the Squam Lakes region. Since 1904, the Association has focused in three primary areas to fulfill our mission: conservation, education, and outreach.

Conservation: In 2005, SLA and numerous volunteers collected water quality data for its 27th year in collaboration with the University of New Hampshire's Lake Lay Monitoring Program. In July, SLA and volunteers conducted the 34th annual Wildlife Census in collaboration with the Loon Preservation Committee. The SLA continues to manage the invasive plant variable milfoil. Variable milfoil has been found in both of the lakes, the channel, and the Squam River. SLA and partners actively manage variable milfoil by handpicking, laying bottom barrier netting, surveying, and herbicide applications. Milfoil management costs over \$30,000 per year and SLA will continue to allocate funds for this purpose in coming years. The SLA along with volunteers performed 2,740 hours of trail maintenance on over 50 miles of SLA maintained trails. SLA is looking for even more volunteers to help monitor the 65 miles of shoreline surrounding the lakes, trail adopter volunteers to maintain trails, and other conservation efforts. Please call SLA at 968-7336 if you are interested.

In 2005, SLA entered into a partnership with Plymouth State University's new Center for the Environment (CFE). CFE aims to address the science, policies, culture and economics of the natural environment in northern New England. In conjunction with this partnership, a Research Associate was hired in June to conduct research in the Squam watershed and pursue a Master of Science in PSU's newest degree program. SLA and CFE also conducted the 2005 Squam Watershed Workshop to identify research needs in the watershed.

In August, SLA closed on the purchase of the 58-acre Hawkins parcel on the southeast flank of Cotton Mountain. A conservation easement will be executed with the Squam Lakes Conservation Society to protect the land in perpetuity. The SLA also manages and protects other properties available for public recreation in the Squam Lakes area including the Squam Range, Rattlesnakes, Red Hill, and the Sandwich Range.

Education: SLA offers three different summer youth programs that introduce youth to the unique resources of the Squam Lakes Region: the Junior Squam Lakes Association (JSLA), the Squam Conservation Corps (SCC), and the Community Youth Sailing Program (CYSP). JSLA is for youth in the third through ninth grades. This program seeks to develop the next generation of environmental stewards through outdoor activities including hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and camping. JSLA celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005. SCC is a one-week internship for young adults entering grades 9 through 12 focusing on SLA's conservation programs. The award winning CYSP

introduces children to the techniques of sailing using Optimist and Club Junior class sailboats. For each of these programs, scholarships are available to students residing in the five watershed towns exemplifying qualities of good citizenship or humanitarianism. Fifteen JSLA scholarships and five CYSP scholarships were awarded to local youth. In 2005, a total of 179 youth participated in JSLA, 16 in SCC, and 68 in CYSP.

Outreach: To enhance public access to the Squam Lakes and promote low-impact recreation use, the SLA rents canoes, kayaks, and sailboats. SLA also manages 14 back-country campsites on Moon Island, Bowman Island, Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest, and Mead Conservation Center. In 2005, approximately 3,600 people camped in these sites. SLA provides low-impact public boat access at the SLA Headquarters and at Belknap Woods.

If you are interested in our programs, would like to volunteer, or have any questions, please contact SLA at 968-7336 or visit SLA's website www.squamlakes.org.

SQUAM LAKES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

The Squam Lakes Conservation Society is a land preservation and conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the natural environment for the benefit of all present and future residents and visitors to the Squam Lakes watershed. It achieves the long term protection of land by seeking, holding, and monitoring conservation easements and by accepting land ownership. In addition, the Society communicates its objectives and regularly provides educational programs to the community. Its activities are accomplished in cooperation with state and local authorities, businesses, conservation organizations, residents, landowners and visitors. The Society envisions a unique region of islands, shorefront, back lands, and mountains, wherein a harmony between the natural environment and mankind is preserved forever. (SLCS Mission Statement, revised & adopted January 1, 2000)

Since its founding in 1960, the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) has protected over 1,900 acres of shorefront and backland. During our first forty years we protected approximately 40 parcels (1,300 acres) of mostly lakefront. With the exception of the office administrator, SLCS was a 100% volunteer organization. During the 1990's we witnessed dramatic increases in real estate activity in vacation areas accessible to large cities. Land values increased dramatically in and around Squam Lake, resulting in higher and higher property taxes. Development pressures also increased. To address potential development disaster in the watershed, the SLCS Board of Directors commissioned a strategic plan to address these concerns. We now have a full time, professional staff, more frequent and more consistent outreach efforts to landowners, a heightened community interest in land conservation, and a dramatic increase in projects and completed projects. Between 2000 and 2005 we protected an additional 19 properties.

The year 2005 was one of the busiest and most exciting years in SLCS history. A few highlights and accomplishments of the past year are as follows:

- Recorded conservation easements on five parcels
- Completed the watershed-wide mapping project, identifying and mapping the 372 high-priority parcels throughout the watershed
- Substantially increased our Stewardship Endowment Fund*
- Completed the SLCS/SLA collaborative effort to purchase and protect the Harrison property on Route 3 in Holderness
- Sponsored a "Monitor Day" training session for SLCS monitors and friends
- Held a seminar for real estate professionals sponsored by Lamprey & Lamprey
- Sponsored a gathering of Squam watershed conservation commissions to discuss our mapping project and discuss uses for these maps
- Welcomed three new members to our Board - - Tom Kelsey, Betsy Whitmore, and Peter Wood.
- Held our most well attended (over 200 people!) Annual Meeting at the Burleigh Barn.
- Placed options to purchase on two parcels in the Squam Range

As "Squam's Land Trust," we are stewards of one of New Hampshire's most pristine and breathtaking natural resources. We rely totally on volunteers to monitor each and every property that we protect. This is our most important task. We welcome everyone to help us in keep Squam the special place that it has always been.

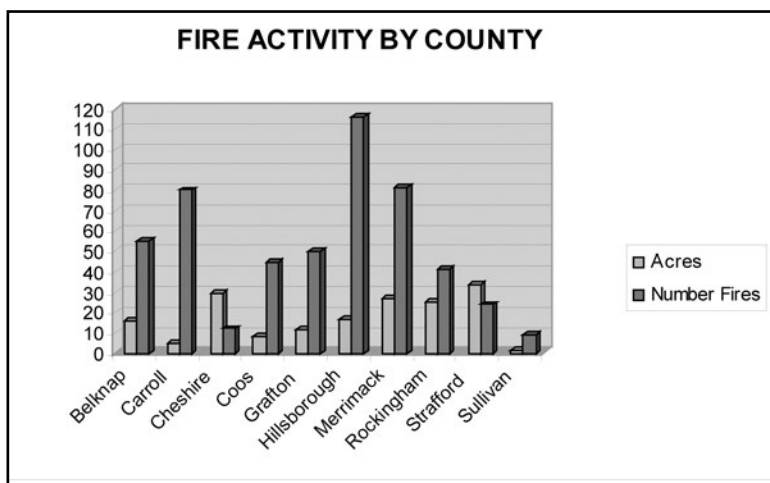
REPORT OF FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands work collaboratively to reduce the risk and frequency of wildland fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, please contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to determine if a permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. A fire permit is required for all outside burning unless the ground is completely covered with snow. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services also prohibits the open burning of household waste. Citizens are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 1-800-498-6868 or www.des.state.nh.us for more information. Safe open burning requires diligence and responsibility. Help us to protect New Hampshire's forest resources. For more information please contact the Division of Forests & Lands at (603) 271-2217, or online at www.nhdfi.org.

Fire activity was high during the first several weeks of the 2005 fire season, with red-flag conditions issued by the National Weather Service and extreme fire danger in the southern and central portions of the state. This period of increased initial attack activity prompted a 5-day ban on open burning, the first such ban in several years. Despite the dry conditions, the state's largest wildland fire was contained at 29 acres. Our statewide system of fire lookout towers is credited with keeping the fires small and saving several structures this season due to their quick and accurate spotting capabilities. Fires in the wildland urban interface damaged 10 structures, a constant reminder that forest fires burn more than just trees. Homeowners should take measures to prevent a wildland fire from spreading to their home. Precautions include keeping your roof and gutters clear of leaves and pine needles, and maintaining adequate green space around your home free of flammable materials. Additional information and homeowner recommendations are available at www.firewise.org. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire wise and fire safe!

2005 FIRE STATISTICS

(All fires reported as of November 4, 2005)



CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

		<u>Total Fires</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
Arson.....	2	2005 513	174
Campfire.....	34	2004 482	147
Children.....	29	2003 374	100
Smoking	40	2002 540	187
Debris.....	284		
Railroad.....	1		
Equipment.....	7		
Lightning.....	5		
Misc.*.....	111		

(*Misc.: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE

COMMUNITY CONTACT REPORT 2005

TOWN OF HOLDERNESS

Community Contact is the field service arm of the Tri-County Community Action Program. The purpose of this program is to assist low-income, elderly, and handicapped persons to solve individual problems and to meet their needs through individual and/or group self help efforts. C.A.P. staff accomplished this purpose by providing information, counseling and by effectively linking and utilizing community resources. If possible, we also may assist with Emergency Fund dollars in the form of vouchers.

CATEGORY	TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	SERVICE UNITS
1. FOOD/HOUSING	Emergency food pantry/Food Stamp referrals, Emer. Housing/Sec. Dep. Loans, Tenant/landlord relations, Landlord lists	16
2. ENERGY	Elec. Disconnects, Fuel outages, Home repairs, Weatherization, Fuel wood, Heat source repair requests, Furnace issues	126
3. HOMELESS	Assistance to the homeless or those in imminent danger of being homeless	18
4. INCOME/BUDGETING	Employment/job training referrals, Debt &/or money management, financial plan reviews, Welfare referrals	22
5. HEALTH ISSUES	Medicare/Medicaid info/referrals, Mental health, Dental, Substance abuse, Emer. Response Units, Breast cancer awareness.	11
6. TRANSPORTATION	Area public transportation info, car pool info, Information re: Senior transportation for medical and other needs	11
7. OTHER ISSUES	Clothing Vouchers, Domestic Violence Program referrals, Legal Aide referrals, Children's Hat & Mitten Program	27
TOTAL SERVICE UNITS:		231

UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION- GRAFTON COUNTY OFFICE 2005 REPORT

IJNH Cooperative Extension provides New Hampshire citizens with research-based education and information, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy.

Funded through the federal, state and county governments, and competitive grants, educational programs are designed to respond to the local needs of citizens through direction and support of an elected volunteer advisory council.

Education programs and assistance are objective, informal and practical in nature; most are at no direct cost for participants. Clients' needs are met through phone calls, letters and printed materials, hands-on workshops, on-site visits, seminars and conferences, and up-to-date web sites. Our staff is able to respond quickly with needed information via electronic mail, keeps up-to-date on the latest research and information, and works collaboratively with many agencies and organizations.

A professional staff of five educators and one specialist work out of the Extension Office located in the Grafton County Administrative Offices in North Haverhill. Two additional staff members work in Plymouth and Littleton to provide educational programs for limited-resource families. Additional support is provided through trained volunteers who assist with Extension programs and increase our outreach capabilities.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN GRAFTON COUNTY, FY05:

- To Strengthen NH's Communities: Community Conservation Assistance Program; Preserving Rural Character through Agriculture; Urban and Community Forestry; Community Youth Development; Volunteer Training (Master Gardeners, Coverts Cooperators, Community Tree Stewards, 4-H Leaders); Community Profiles
- To Strengthen NH's Family and Youth: After-School Programs; Family Resource Management; 4-H/Youth Development: Family Lifeskills Program; Nutrition and Food Safety Education; Parenting Education; Cradle Crier/Toddler Tale Newsletters; Volunteer Leader Training Programs.
- To Sustain NH's Natural Resources: Dairy Management; Agroecology; Forest Resources Stewardship Program; Fruit Production and Management; GIS Training; Lakes Lay Monitoring Program; Integrated Pest Management; Ornamental Horticulture; Insect and Disease Control; Vegetable Crop Production; Wildlife Habitat Improvement; Water Quality/Nutrient Management Programs; Estate Planning and Conservation Easement Education Programs.
- To Improve the Economy: Small Business Assistance (Forest Industry, Loggers, and Foresters; Farms and Nurseries); Farm and Forest Product Marketing; Agricultural Business Management; Family Financial Management; Employment Skills Training Program.

Extension Staff: Tom Buob, Agricultural Resources; Ginny DiFrancesco, Water Quality; Kathleen Jablonski, 4-H/Youth Development; Michal Lunak, Dairy; Deborah Maes, Family & Consumer Resources; Northam Parr, Forestry & Wildlife Resources; Robin Peters, Nutrition Connections; Jacqueline Poulton, LEAP (Lifeskills for Employment, Achievement and Purpose). Educators are supported by Anita Hollenhorst, Donna Mitton and Kristina Vaughan at the Extension Office.

Extension Advisory Council: Mike Dannehy, Woodsville; Sheila Fabrizio, North Haverhill; James Kinder, North Haverhill; David Keith, North Haverhill; Shaun Lagueux, Bristol; Jane O'Donnell, Littleton; Cindy Putnam, Piermont; Debby Robie, Bath; Carol Ronci, Franconia; Denis Ward (Chair), Monroe. Teen Members include: Molly Roy, Bath and Justine Morris, Haverhill.

Extension Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Phone:	603-787-6944
Fax:	603-787-2009
Email:	grafton@ceunh.unh.edu
Mailing Address:	3855 DCH, Box 5, North Haverhill, NH 03 774-4909
Web Site:	www.ceinfo.unh.edu

Extension programs and policies are nondiscriminatory with regard to age, color, handicap, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation and veterans' status.

Respectfully submitted,
Northam D. Parr, County Office Administrator

Vachon, Clukay & Co., PC

Certified Public Accountants

45 Market Street
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(603) 622-7070
FAX: 622-1452

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL BASED ON
AN AUDIT OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

To the Board of Selectmen
Town of Holderness, New Hampshire

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information which collectively comprise the Town of Holderness, New Hampshire's basic financial statements, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated February 8, 2006. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

The management of the Town of Holderness, New Hampshire is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the Town of Holderness, New Hampshire for the year ended December 31, 2005, we obtained an understanding of the internal control structure. With respect to the internal control structure, we obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and whether they have been placed in operation, and we assessed control risk in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the basic financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control structure. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

This report is intended for the information of the Board of Selectmen. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

February 8, 2006

Vachon, Clukay & Co., PC

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2005

Assets

Cash and investments	\$3,028,344
Taxes receivable, net	272,131
Tax liens receivable, net	95,688
Due from State of New Hampshire	136,224
Accounts receivable	2,153
Deferred charges	1,378
Tax deeded property	1,924
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Total assets	\$3,537,842
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Liabilities and Fund Balance

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		\$152,140
Due to Holderness School District		1,506,749
Due to Pemi-Baker Regional School District		1,075,325
Deferred revenue		27,823
		<hr/>
Total liabilities		2,762,037
		<hr/>
Fund Balance:		
Reserved for specific purposes		9,803
Unreserved:		
Designated for continuing appropriations	\$145,697	
Less: available from		
state grants and capital reserve funds	(136,497)	9,200
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Undesignated		756,802
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Total fund balance		775,805
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Total liabilities and fund balance		\$3,537,842
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HOW TO CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSMEN

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For more information on the New Hampshire General Court
www.gencourt.state.nh.us